



Transportation
Security
Administration

December 19, 2013

Behavior Detection and Analysis (BDA) Program Office

Behavior Detection Officer (BDO) Plain Clothes Operations (PCO) Required Guidance

Expiration: Indefinite

This required guidance cancels and supersedes the SPOT Program Directive BDO Plain Clothes Operations (PCO) Implementation Procedures, dated January 2009.

References

This required guidance is intended to supplement the PCO requirements outlined in the SPOT SOP. This guidance in no way supersedes the SPOT SOP or any applicable training from the Office of Training and Workforce Engagement. The following policy and procedures are referenced throughout this guidance:

- SPOT SOP, Revision 3, section 3.11
- SPOT SOP, Revision 3, section 4.3
- Behavioral Indicator Reference Guide, version 1.3
- SPOT Referral Report, version 3

Summary

The FSD may use PCO to extend security beyond the screening checkpoint or enhance SPOT behavior cue and appearance factor observation capabilities. PCO BDOs must conduct behavior observation as directed by the FSD or the BDA Coordinator in accordance with this guidance and the SPOT SOP.

This guidance outlines the PCO BDOs' roles and responsibilities including but not limited to:

- BDO requirements
- Dress code
- Procedures
- Primary areas of operation
- Surveillance and the Terrorist Planning Cycle
- Reporting requirements

Uniformed BDO coverage of the security checkpoints remains the first priority.

Notifications

- A. The BDA Coordinator must notify officials with a need-to-know, including LEOs, representatives of the airport or venue authority, and any other stakeholders, each time PCO BDOs will be deployed. This notification is required for situational awareness and to address any potential concerns in advance of PCO deployments

BDO Requirements

- A. In order to perform Plain Clothes Operations (PCO), the BDO must:
 - 1) Ensure all PCO activity is entered into the BEAM database, if applicable, by the end of each operational shift
 - a. At airports where the BEAM database is not operational, PCO activities must be entered into the daily shift summary by the end of each operational day.
 - 2) Be familiar with all directives and updates associated with PCO duties
 - 3) Perform SPOT in a TSA-issued uniform no less than four scheduled shifts in the same pay period
 - 4) Have a TSA-issued uniform readily accessible during the assigned PCO shift

Dress Code

- A. The BDO must:
 - 1) Dress in a manner consistent with the traveling public at the time and location of PCO, as established by the local BDA Coordinator, in order to maintain anonymity

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

- B. The BDO must NOT:

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

Procedures

- A. The PCO BDOs must:

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

B. The PCO BDOs must NOT:

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

C.

Primary Areas of PCO Duties

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

Surveillance and the Terrorist Planning Cycle

A. PCO BDOs must be aware of the terrorist planning cycle. (b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

- 1) The seven phases of the Terrorist Planning cycle:
 - a. Broad Target Selection
 - b. Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance
 - c. Specific Target Selection
 - d. Pre-Attack Surveillance and Planning
 - e. Rehearsals
 - f. Execution
 - g. Escape and Exploitation

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

(b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)

PCO Reporting Requirements

- A. Except when conducted during VIPR operations, all PCO activities must be implemented as a Covert (COV) Playbook activity and entered into the BEAM database.
- B. PCO BDOs are responsible for understanding the intent and application (b)(3):49 U.S.C. § 114(r)
- C. All PCO activities must be entered into the BEAM database, if applicable, by the end of each operational day and include the following:
 - 1) Specific areas of operation where you worked.
 - 2) A description of any incidents including all details such as time, location, reason and responding LEO, if applicable.
 - 3) Any other pertinent information such as unattended luggage/vehicles, trends and/or anomalies discovered, etc.
- D. At airports where the BEAM database is not operational, PCO activities must be entered into the daily shift summary by the end of each operational day.